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ABSTRACT:

CHG DATE=19990617 STATUS=0>The present invention provides a method of identifying a base at a target position in a single-stranded sample DNA sequence wherein an extension primer, which hybridises to the sample DNA immediately adjacent to the target position is provided and the sample DNA and extension primer are subjected to a polymerase reaction in the presence of a deoxynucleotide or dideoxynucleotide whereby the deoxynucleotide or dideoxynucleotide will only become incorporated and release pyrophosphate (PPi) if it is complementary to the base in the target position, any release of PPi being detected enzymically, different deoxynucleotides or dideoxynucleotides being added either to separate aliquots of sample-primer mixture or successively to the same sample-primer mixture and subjected to the polymerase reaction to indicate which deoxynucleotide or dideoxynucleotide is incorporated, characterised in that, the PPi-detection enzyme(s) are included in the polymerase reaction step and in that in place of deoxy- or dideoxy adenosine triphosphate (ATP) a dATP or ddATP analogue is used which is capable of acting as a substrate for a polymerase but incapable of acting as a substrate for a said PPi-detection enzyme. The method of the invention advantageously permits large-scale non-electrophoretic solid phase DNA sequencing, which allows for continuous determination of the progress of the polymerisation reaction with time.